COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE FIRST BUDGET SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL).

Vol. I — 1110.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday,

5th August, 1935.

20th Karkidaqam, 1110.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K. C. I. E., in the Chair.

Messrs. P. J. Alexander, T. S. Balarama Ayyar, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, K. T. Mathew, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar and C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Principle followed in fixing the period for books prescribed in schools.

181. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they follow any principle or rule in fixing the period when they prescribe books in schools;

(2) if so, what they are?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— (1) Yes.

(2) The recommendation of the Board of Studies. The Board of Studies is guided by the provisions contained in the Cochin Education Code, Volume I. Books which are not quite up to the mark or books which have already been in use for some years are prescribed for shorter periods in the hope that better ones will be available by the time.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Will the Hon'ble Member state why books which are not upto the standard are prescribed at all?

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Mr. I. N. Menon:— They must have been the best available although they might not be the most satisfactory and up to the standard.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Are not books first approved by the Text Book Committee ?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Do they approve the books which are not up to the mark ?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— No. The difficulty is there is no rule or criterion to judge the quality of books. Unless the books are pronounced to be bad we do not reject them.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Who is to decide ultimately which all books are up to the mark?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— The Board of Studies.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Does the Government know the hardship caused to the poor students by the too frequent changing of the text books ?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— The matter has been taken notice of and as the Hon'ble Member is aware we are trying to find out ways and means to minimise the trouble.

Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Do they consider only the books submitted to them. Do they not enquire whether there are other books available?

Mr. I. N. Menon:—Only books submitted to them are taken into consideration.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— What are the ways and means adopted by the Government to prescribe books for a longer period or to remedy the complaints against the prescription of books for a shorter period ?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— For one thing the period prescribed is usually five years and if the books are found to be fairly satisfactory they can be continued. That is one means of minimising the hardship. Another method is Government are seriously considering whether they should not undertake the publication of these books themselves and in that case great deal of care will have to be bestowed upon the proper choice of the manuscripts before they are printed.

Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Only books published with the idea of getting them approved by the Committee is to be considered or do they make enquiries as to whether there are other books available published by persons who have published them with no such idea ?

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Mr. I. N. Menon— That is true in the majority of cases. It is not the author who sends the book. It is the publisher. Whether the book is bad, good or indifferent, he is anxious only to advance his custom. Sometimes he sends them even without the knowledge of the author.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni:— How long has this been under the consideration of the Government ?

Mr. I. N. Menon— That has been incorporated as a correction slip to the Code in 1108. Then there was some controversy that books should not be prescribed for longer periods than 3 years. There were even questions in this House on that point.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni:— Why were certain books prescribed for longer periods than 3 years?

Mr. I. N. Menon— It is left to the option of the Government on the recommendation of the Board. This is a matter which the Advisory Committee proposed to be constituted will consider in detail. The correction slip reads that text books can be the same in all schools unless otherwise ordered by the Government.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni:—May I know the practice in British parts? There I understand that the headmaster of a particular school can prescribe whichever books he wants so far as the lower classes are concerned. So far as the S. S. L. C. or Third Form is concerned there will be prescribed books. With regard to the others he can make a choice from the list of books supplied by the Board of Directors. Is there any difficulty for us to follow that practice ?

Mr. I. N. Menon— In the case of Provinces like Madras there are so many districts and each district shall follow one rule whereas here if we give absolute freedom in the matter of books to every school I think the printers and publishers may find it very difficult to anticipate the supply if each school is going to prescribe its own books. The maximum that will have to be sold may come to 100 only.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know from the Government whether the system prevailing in British if introduced here will have a healthy check upon the run on the number of publishers of getting books prescribed as the text books in all schools?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— If the Hon'ble Member is correct the present zest of publishers might be replaced by indifference.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— The information that I would like to know is whether it will not be a healthy check upon what we see during the days of the decision on which the books are to be approved for the ensuing year.

Mr I. N. Menon — In that case there would be competition

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— In the light of that observation may I request the Government to seriously consider the question of introducing that system here ?

Mr. I. N. Menon:— I think that this is a matter which the committee can decide for itself.

Appointment—Tahsildars.

182. Mr. K. Ayyappan:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) is not Survey Training a highly necessary qualification for appointment as Tahsildar;

(b) how many persons, lacking in this qualification, have been appointed as Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar during the years 1109 and 1110 ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— (a) Survey training is one of the qualifications necessary for appointment as Tahsildar.

(b) Three.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— (b) May I know why ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— There are only three Tahsildars. That is the reply given here.

Mr. President:— What the Hon'ble Member wants to know is why you made those exemptions.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— There are two qualifications necessary for Tahsildars—Revenue and Account Tests—and they should also be graduates. I think Standing Order 4 gives power to Government to order short term appointments even though these people have not undergone survey training. It was a short term appointment and they were also senior to others.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— My question is what is the particular considerations for this deviation from the general practice and rule?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon: – There were two considerations. The appointment was for a short term and the persons recommended by the head of Department were junior to those appointed.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty:— What are the other qualifications necessary?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— They must have passed Revenue and Account Tests.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty:—Is there any other qualifications?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Survey Training qualifications.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty:— Is there any other qualifications according to the Standing Orders ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— These are the three.

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